

REMARKS

Claim 1 calls for an infrared transmissive cap removably secured to a hinged cover on a socket housing. The cap may protect the socket part of the integrated circuit insulation while facilitating surface mounting of the socket to the printed circuit board. Infrared radiation from the surface mount oven passes through the cap to heat the socket (rather than the cap) so that the socket is thereby soldered to the printed circuit board.

The cited reference to Liao, if anything, teaches away. It simply relates to a cap for a socket. The problem with Liao is that the cap becomes heated in the usual course. Thus, if anything, Liao teaches away from the claimed invention and presents an example of the problem solved by the present application.

The cited reference to Ciambrone has nothing to do with an integrated circuit socket. It is a soldering tool, not a socket. The fact that infrared transmissive elements have been used in the past is not sufficient to show that it would be obvious to use an infrared transmissive cap in place of the cap used by Liao. Certainly, this was not obvious to Liao.

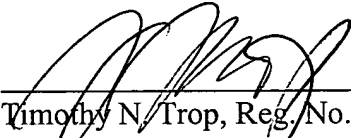
The suggestion that the reason to substitute the infrared soldering tool of Ciambrone for the non-infrared transmissive cap of Liao is that the cap may be recycled, reformed, and reused is noted, but makes no sense. Liao would respond that this rationale provided him no reason to go to the trouble to use an infrared transmissive cap because his current cap can be recycled, reformed, and reused. In short, nothing in either Liao or Ciambrone teaches any reason to use infrared transmissive material for the cap of Liao. Suggestions to the contrary rely on nothing but hindsight reasoning.

For all these reasons, the cited references provide no guidance to one skilled in the art, such as Liao, as to why Liao's solution could be improved. There is not even a recognition that the cover of Liao would heat up in the course of reflow. Not only do the references fail to teach the solution claimed here, but they do not even recognize the problem that gives rise to the claimed solution.

For all these reasons, reconsideration would be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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